

Triathlon Northern Territory - President's Report 2020/21

The current Triathlon NT board would like to thank previous President Paul Bell for his contribution and drive during his time in the role. Paul stepped down from this role at the end of this financial year and I am currently acting in the President role. One of Paul's final achievements before his departure, on behalf of Triathlon NT was to endorse the Triathlon Australia strategic plan and commit the NT to Triathlon Australia's Future Operating Model. States and Territories that have committed to the Future Operating Model are now working together to deliver on the 2021-2025 strategic plan under an aligned workforce model.

The aligned workforce model is intended to:

- Reduce the duplication of effort across each state and territory
- Re-focus the workforce and leadership personnel to specific business area outcomes, and streamline the responsibilities of 'on the ground' personnel in each state/territory
- Streamline performance measurement and align systems with an outcome of improved reporting (timeliness and quality)
- Deliver consistency across Triathlon and realise innovation benefits across the sport
- Provide a structure that identifies, nurtures, and accelerates talented employees
- Maintain a governance structure (boards) that provides accountability and continues connection with local stakeholder relationships.

Alongside Miles Stewart (CEO Triathlon Australia) and Michelle Cooper (President Triathlon Australia), Paul presented the Future Operating Model to both Darwin Tri Club (DTC) and the Alice Springs Tri Club (ASTC) committees. Triathlon NT looks forward to working with Triathlon Australia and the clubs as the transition progresses. Full implementation is expected by July 2022.

To date, what this has meant for the NT and for our dedicated Operations Officer, Lucy Berk, is increased support from Triathlon Australia with finance, IT, the sharing of resources and the development of new networks including the ability to bring interstate coaches to the NT for coach development through the sharing of knowledge and skills. This has also led to greater capacity for the Operations Officer to ensure greater governance within clubs, support NT clubs more with operational requirements, including applying for local grants, marketing events and supporting interested members to undertake the Foundation coaching qualification to build coaching capacity in the NT.

In June this year Triathlon Australia launched the new membership portal Go Membership offering more diverse membership options to suit everyone's journey; social, basic, standard and premium. This also provides a built-in event platform that saves clubs paying other sites like Register Now for event registrations. Lucy has been integral in promoting this change and supporting members with the transition.

The MOV3 and Academy program, designed and implemented by Tim Ellison, continues to grow reaching over 700 young people last year. The program not only teaches physical literacy but also provides a supportive learning environment for developing coaches. The last financial year saw the delivery of 115 MOV3 sessions, 240 Academy sessions, 2 camps, 10 junior/family events, supported by volunteers from Darwin Tri Club, as well as the delivery of 3 physical literacy programs to schools. This has facilitated a record NT junior membership of 107 for Darwin Tri Club. The program is a huge asset for both juniors and families in the NT.

There is now national recognition of the MOV3 program with TA applying to the Federal Government (Sport Australia) for substantial funding to support the implementation of the MOV3 program into Queensland, Tasmania and remote and regional NT.

Triathlon NT continues to be supported financially with the NT Government committing to a 5-year funding arrangement taking us through to 2024. Triathlon NT ended the financial year in a good position with a healthy financial surplus. Looking forward, the board will think strategically about how best to utilise this.

Successful grants applied for over the last year have include Jacana Energy Sponsorship for the Darwin Tri Club Progressive Tri 2020, Variety Club NT Community Grant to support the All-Abilities children's tri in Alice Springs in November 2021 and a Community Benefit Fund grant for a timing system, fridge and camera for the Alice Springs Tri Club.

Triathlon NT would like to build a stronger relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the NT to create a more open and accessible environment for engaging in triathlon and the Mov3 program. As a starting point we have initiated a Reconciliation Action Plan through Reconciliation Australia which outlines possible steps to take on this journey. Triathlon Australia are supportive of the initiative and keen to be involved at a national level.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their time and contributions over the last year and once again acknowledge the leadership of Paul Bell over the last 2 years. The board would also like to acknowledge Lucy Berk whose enthusiasm and passion in her role is the link between Triathlon Australia and the NT clubs. She provides the on-the-ground support to our members to grow the sport. Finally, thank you to the members, volunteers and families for your ongoing support of triathlon and for making the sport what it is in NT.

Triathlon NT is seeking expression of interests for directors across the NT to join the Board and contribute to the development of triathlon in the Northern Territory. It's not an onerous task so please consider it and speak to Lucy or me if you're interested and would like to know more.

Natasha Freeman
Acting President
Triathlon Northern Territory

18 October 2021